

Kam
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14 as follows.

On the other hand, Ophiopogon Tuber (Bakumondo) has widely been used in Chinese herbal medicines for the purpose of improving body fluids (JP-A 2000-103718). Although it has been also already known that Ophiopogon Tuber is incorporated as an active ingredient having moisture retention (JP-A 11-2996879968), as a melanin production inhibitor (JP-A 08-133949), and as a lipid-degrading agent (JP-A 2000-103718) in the field of skin preparations for external use such as cosmetics, a compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or a salt thereof, which is an ingredient incorporated in the Ophiopogon Tuber such as methylophiopogonanone B (2,3-dihydro-3-[(4-methoxyphenyl) methyl]-5,7-dihydroxy-6,8-dimethyl-4H-1-benzopyran-4-on; hereinafter, also referred to as "Compound 1") have (has) not been known in the least to inhibit the elongation of melanocytic dendrites, nor known to be useful for alleviating, by this action, dyschromatosis on which melanin production inhibitors utilizing usual tyrosinase inhibitory action are not or less effective.